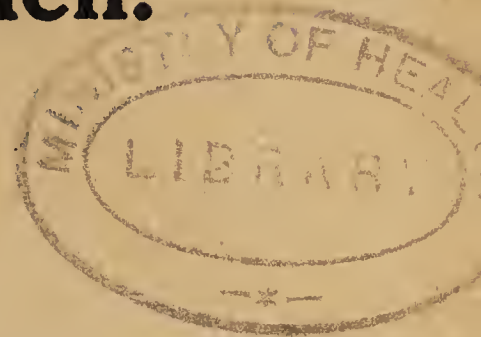


Hunslet
Rural District Council.



.....

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

JOSEPH BUCK, M.D., D.P.H.

.....

1925.

.....

Needs :

RHODES & SONS (Printers), Limited, 8, Aire Street,

—
1926

Hunslet Rural District Council.



.....

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

JOSEPH BUCK, M.D., D.P.H.

.....
1925.
.....

Leeds :

RHODES & SONS (Printers), Limited, 8, Aire Street,

—
1926



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29442138>

HUNSLET RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT - 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Hunslet Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN :

The report for 1925 is a survey and comprehensive report in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. It deals with the natural and social conditions of the area, vital statistics, prevalence and control over infectious diseases, general provision of health services, and sanitary circumstances of the area, housing, food inspection, and includes statistical tables C and D of the West Riding County Council, and the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

THE HUNSLET RURAL DISTRICT comprised the parishes of Oulton-cum-Woodlesford, Templenewsam, and Thorpe-Stapleton, but in October, 1925, Thorpe-Stapleton was combined with Templenewsam. It covers an area of 4,585 acres, and its natural formation is chiefly comprised of clay in Temple-newsam, and stony gravel (shale underlying stone) in Oulton-cum-Woodlesford.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining, stone-quarrying, brick-making and agriculture, the majority of the houses being artizan, and the remainder of a residential character.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,585
Population (census 1921—7,145) ...	7,795
No. of Inhabited Houses (1921) ...	1,578
No. of Families or separate Occupiers (1921)	1,673
Rateable Value	£60,001
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£250

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS (1925).

Births—Legitimate M. 71 F. 69 Birth-rate 19.1
 Illegitimate M. 4 F. 5

	—	—	
Total ...	75	74	... 149

Deaths— M. 56 F. 41 Total 97 Death-rate 12.4
 No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—*nil*.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate 5; Illegitimate 1; Total 6.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... *nil*.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)...*nil*.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) *nil*.

POPULATION.—Census, 1921—7145, and in 1925, as estimated by Registrar-General—7,795.

BIRTHS.—There have been registered in the district, 149 births—75 males and 74 females, of which, 4 males and 5 females were illegitimate. This gives a **birth-rate** of 19.1 per 1,000 inhabitants, against 18.8 for 1924. The birth rate for England and Wales is 18.3, and that for the district for the quinquennium, 1921—1925—20.4.

DEATHS.—There have been attributed to this district, 97 deaths—56 males and 41 females. The actual number of deaths registered in the district is 81, the corrected figures (97), having been determined by the inclusion of 16 deaths in persons said to belong to the district, but dying outside, and the exclusion of deaths not belonging to the district, but registered therein (*nil* for 1925).

The corrected **death-rate**, calculated on the estimated population, 7,795, is 12.4 per thousand, as compared with that of England and Wales, viz., 12.2, and for the quinquennium, 1921—1925 for the district—12.2.

The death-rate of persons actually registered in the district is 10.3.

SUMMARY OF AGES AT DEATH.

Deaths under	1 year	...	...	...	...	6
Deaths over	1 year and under	2	...	...	...	2
„	2	5	...	...	...	7
„	5	15	...	...	...	0
„	15	25	...	...	...	4
„	25	45	...	...	...	14
„	45	65	...	...	...	22
„	65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	42
Total						97

CAUSES OF DEATH :

Influenza	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...				5
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	...			4
Cancer...	...	...	...	...	10
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...			3
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	19
Arterio-Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...		5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...			3
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth					3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1
Other Deaths from Violence	...	...			3
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...		19
					—
Total	...				97
					==

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 6 deaths in children under one year of age, one of which was illegitimate. The **infant mortality rate** is 40 per 1,000, as compared with that for England and Wales, viz., 75. The rate for 1924 was 66, and for the quinquennium, 1921—1925—66.

The causes of death were :

Prematurity and Debility	...	...	...	4
Convulsions	...	...	...	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1
				—
Total	...			6
				==

Five of the infants died within one month of birth.

The infant mortality rate for 1925 is the lowest on record, and is a conspicuous index of the general health and sanitary efficiency of the district.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—No deaths were registered from the principal infectious epidemic diseases, the **zymotic death rate** being, therefore *nil*, and that for the quinquennium .46— a truly remarkable record.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1925.

1925	Hunslet R.D.C.	England and Wales	1921 — 1925 H.R.D.C.
Birth-rate	19.1	18 3	20.4
Death-rate	12 4	12 2	12.2
Zymotic Death-rate...	Nil	?	0.46
Infant Mortality-rate (Per 1,000 Births)	40	75	66

It will be noticed that the low mortality rates are not conspicuous for any individual year, but are progressive over a series of years.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES—

The following table gives the total number received, the districts in which they occurred, the number of cases removed to Hospital, and the number of deaths.

	Totals	Oulton-cum Woodlesford	Temple- newsam	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	4	2	2	3	<i>nil.</i>
Diphtheria ...	3	2	1	3	<i>nil.</i>
Erysipelas ...	9	8	1	...	1
Pneumonia ...	3	1	2	1	1
Tuberculosis.				(Sanatorium)	(All forms)
Respiratory ...	16	2	14	8	5*
Others ...	3	1	2	...	4*
	38	16	22	15	11

* Including cases notified previously to 1925.

The number of infectious cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified for the quinquennium, 1921—1925, shows a marked reduction in prevalence, the mean for the five years being 40, and for 1924, and 1925, 17 and 19 respectively.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were only four cases notified, two in Oulton-cum-Woodlesford and two in Templenewsam, of which three were removed to Hospital. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.—Three cases were notified, one of which was imported into the district. All were removed to Hospital, and made good recovery.

MEASLES.—There was an outbreak of this disease in Templenewsam, in the late Autumn, chiefly amongst young children, and the infants' department of the Halton school was closed from Dec. 7th until after the Christmas holidays. No deaths were registered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the new cases and deaths during 1925.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...
1- 5 years	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...
5-10 ,,	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
10-15 ,,	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
15-20 ,,	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
20-25 ,,	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
25-35 ,,	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35-45 ,,	...	4	...	...	2	1	...	...
45-55 ,,	3	2	...	..	1	...	...	...
55-65 ,,	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	6	10	3	...	4	1	4	...

There were 19 primary cases notified—16 of the pulmonary type and 3 non-pulmonary. Of these, 3 came from Oulton-cum-Woodlesford, and 16 from Templenewsam, 3 died, 8 were removed to sanatorium, and 3 were attending the W.R. Tuberculosis Dispensary. One case was notified after death.

During the year, 9 deaths were registered, 5 of the pulmonary type and 4 other forms.

Of the 9 deaths, 4 were un-notified in this district.

The usual precautions were taken, viz., investigation into each case, inspection of surroundings, disinfection of homes, and where practicable, recommendation to the W. R. Tuberculosis Dispensary for supervision and sanatorium treatment.

The **death-rate** for Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .6, and for all forms 1.1, against .7 and .8 for 1924.

The rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the quinquennium, 1921—1925 was .6.

There has been some improvement in the notification of pulmonary cases, but there still remains a laxity in the non-pulmonary type.

INFLUENZA.—There was no distinctive epidemic, though it was prevalent during the year. The death-rate was .25, against .32 for the whole country.

CANCER.—Ten deaths were registered, which gives a death-rate of 1.28 per 1,000, against 1.1 for 1924, and 1.05 for 1921—25. There is no diminution in the prevalence and mortality of this scourge, but it is to be hoped that the active campaign throughout the country, with a view to the education of the community and the recognition of early cases will have some definite effects in controlling the disease in the near future.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—There were registered, 18 deaths—10 due to Bronchitis, 5 to Pneumonia (all forms), and 3 other, being at the rate of 2.3, the same as in 1924, and 1.8 for 1921—1925..

GENERAL SANITATION.—A tabular account of the principal sanitary work and housing undertaken and completed during the year is appended in the Sanitary Inspector's report, the Ministry of Health's Housing table, and tables C and D of the West Riding County Council, which give in detail the work in connection with Water Supply, Milk and other Food, Drainage, Scavenging and Nuisance Inspection.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, Etc.—The work in connection with the above has been :

- (a) The erection of 96 houses during the year, of which 81 were built with state assistance by private enterprise, and 8 by the local authority.
- (b) House-to-House inspection under 1910 regulations was resumed, and 33 houses were inspected. The total number of houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts was 114, of which 27 were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. The number of houses in which defects were remedied under formal and informal notices was 55. The closing order of one house was determined, the dwelling having been rendered fit.
- (c) Overcrowding is still acute throughout the district, but the new Housing scheme submitted and approved during the year will somewhat mitigate this condition in 1926.
- (d) The whole area is now provided for under Town Planning Schemes.

Supplementary : The proposed scheme for the drainage of Colton should be proceeded with. Whitkirk Lane End and Grove Road have been dealt with satisfactorily.

The provision of slaughterhouses and mortuary is still a requirement of the district.

A trained district nurse for Oulton-cum-Woodlesford, either under voluntary or other agency would be a useful acquisition.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 4 samples of milk were taken, of which 1 was found to adulterated, but no legal action was deemed necessary. The milk supply of the district continues to be of good standard.

Summary : The outstanding features of this **Quinquennium, 1921—1925** are :—

- (1) The comparative sustained **Birth-rate**—20.4
2. The satisfactory **Death-rate**—12.2.
- (3) The progressive low **Infantile Mortality** rate, 66 per 1,000 births.
- (4) The exceedingly low **Zymotic death-rate**—.46 (nil for 1925)
- (5) The gradual reduction in the number of infectious diseases notified.
- (6) The marked reduction in the mortality from Enteric Fever, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.
- (7) The sufficiency and good quality of the water supply.
- (8) Improvements in drainage and sewerage, and the gradual reductions in the number of privy-middens.
- (9) A more efficient procedure in regard to the control and sanatorium treatment of Tuberculous cases.
- (10) The efforts of the Council to ameliorate the Housing conditions, and the provision of Town Planning Schemes for the whole district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—There are 11 factories and 26 workshops in the district, each of which has been inspected quarterly, and 146 visits made. There have been no defects found, and to the best of my knowledge there are no outworkers in the district.

In conclusion, it gives me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to present so favourable a report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the district, and I take this opportunity of again thanking the Chairman, Members and Officials for their continued acts of courtesy and co-operation during the past year.

JOSEPH BUCK, M.D., D.P.H.

Woodlesford, near Leeds.

May 22nd, 1926.

TABLE C, 1925.

HUNSLET RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Nuisance Inspections—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1925, for Nuisances only, 398. (For Housing Inspections see Table D).

Nuisances reported in 1925—81. Nuisances in hand, end of 1924—27. Total needing abatement—108. Abated during 1925—73. Outstanding end of 1925—35.

Notices served, Informal—76. Complied with—55.

Notices served Statutory—12. Complied with 3.

Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings—*nil*.

Cleansing of Filthy Houses—1.

Any notices served under Sec. 46 of P.H.A., 1875 (or any other Act)?—No.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made	General Conditions	Legal Proceedings (if any)
Common Lodging Houses ...	Nil	Not a	Registering Authority		
Houses let in Lodgings ...	Nil				
Canal Boats ...	Nil				
Knacker's Yards ...	Nil				
Tents, Vans & Sheds	Nil				
Offensive Trades ...	Nil				

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?—No.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Developments during 1925?—36 yards sewer re-laid, 3,282 yards of new sewer, Sunny Hill, Wheaton Avenue and Pinfold Lane.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers—*nil*.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers—

Sewage Disposal Works (a) Any inadequacy—Colton.

(b) Any complaints—

Any sink wastes needing disconnection?—No.

Closet Accommodation—

No. of Privies with open middens—*nil*. No. of Pail or Tub Closets—38, in connection with Collieries and Farms.

No. of Privies with covered middens—441. No. of Water Closets—1,444. Waste-water Closets—1.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1925—(a) as w.c.'s—3. (b) other—*nil*.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1925—(a) w.c.'s—19. (b) other—*nil*.

No. of Closets constructed in 1925 for new houses (a) w.c.'s 99. (b) other—*nil*.

Scavenging—

Any change during 1925?—Installation of own horse and cart for Templenewsam.

Performed by (a) Council—Yes; (b) Contractor—Extra Horse Hire only; (c) Owners or Occupiers—*nil*.

How is refuse disposed of? No. of loads to (a) Destructor—*nil*; (b) Tips—4,626; (c) Farmers—677; Total annual cost £ : :

Is there any inadequacy, and where?—No.

Any utilization of waste material?—No.

Water Supply—

Any developments during 1925?—380 yds. 4in. main, Oulton. 630 yds. 3in. main, Templenewsam.

Restricted in any way?—No.

Any general insufficiency, and where?—Occasional shortage at Whitkirk and Woodlesford high levels, owing to pressure.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where?—No.

Any new sources added?—No. Any disused sources re-used? No.

Milk Supply—

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) of the 1922 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act? (a) For Retailers—Yes; (b) For Cow-keepers or Wholesale Traders—Yes.

Have any Licenses been granted under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, to distributors of:—

“Certified” milk—*nil*. “Grade A”—2. “Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)”—*nil*. Grade A (Pasteurised)—*nil*. “Pasteurised”—*nil*.

Have you had samples of Graded Milk tested?—No.

Have any retailers been removed from the Register?—No.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. and D. Acts—4. No. adulterated—1.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—*nil*.

What arrangement for periodical Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows?—Veterinary Surgeon called in at discretion of Medical Officer.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1925?—No.

No. of Milk Cows kept in District—398.

No. of Cowkeepers in district producing and selling milk—28.
No. Registered 28.

No. of Retail Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers—11.

No. who are Milk Retailers only—8.

Total No. of Retail Milk Sellers Registered—19.

Total No. of Cowsheds—43. Total No. of Inspections in 1925—185.

Date of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations?—September 21st, 1887. Any Legal Action?—No.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—Periodic Inspection by Leeds Officials.

Other Foods.

Any special examination of Milk for Dirt?—No.

No. of seizures of unsound food—*nil*.

Any Public Abattoir?—No.

No. of Slaughterhouses—*nil*.

No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs—*nil*; (b) Unsound Food—*nil*; (c) *re* Slaughter Houses—*nil*.

Bakehouses, No.—5. Any underground—No. Total No. of Inspections—29.

Schools—

No. of Schools in district—4. No. visited by M.O.H.—All visited periodically. Action taken—Closing orders. Schools closed by M.O.H.—Halton Infants, Dec., 1925.

Factories and Workshops—

No. of Smoke observations taken—*nil*. No. of Cautions—1.

Legal Notices—*nil*. Summonses—*nil*.

No. of Workshops—37. No. of times each Workshop inspected—Quarterly. Total inspections—146.
Any Industrial Welfare Workers appointed—No.

Adoptive Acts—

For Rural Districts : Any Urban Powers obtained in 1925?—No.

Byelaws and Regulations—

	Date of Approval.
Cleansing of Footways and Pavements ...	26th Dec., 1882.
Scavenging	26th Dec., 1882.
Common Lodging Houses	26th Dec., 1882.
New Streets and Buildings	7th Apr., 1906.
Alteration of Buildings	7th Apr., 1906.
Slaughter Houses	4th Apr., 1906.

Any relaxation of Byelaws under Section 24 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919?—No.

Hospitals and other Institutions—

(a) General : Accident—General Infirmary, Leeds.
Children— „ „

(b) Local : Hospital, Cottage—None.

(c) Infectious, General—Conjoint at Rothwell.
Smallpox „ „ East Ardsley.

(d) Maternity—Leeds.

Any arrangements for nursing Puerperal Fever cases?—No

(e) Clinic and Treatment Centre not provided by County Council Scheme—None.

Whether any other disease (*e.g.* Pneumonia) is treated in Infectious Diseases Hospital—Yes; Pneumonia in special cases.

Any change or extension of (a) General Infectious Hospital;
(b) Smallpox Hospital—No.

Tuberculosis—Procedure by M.O.H., or his staff after notification.

(1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop—Yes.

(2) Examination for contacts—Yes.

(3) Is house disinfected?—Yes. When?—After removal to Sanatorium, change of residence, or death.

(4) Leaflets, Lectures, etc., distributed—Yes.

(5) Action *re* spitting—Advice and sputum flasks.

- (6) Is sputum examined apart from Dispensary?—No.
- (7) Any special procedure adopted in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with T.B. in sputum?—Isolation where practicable.
- (8) Are the requirements of Tuberculosis Regulations as to notification observed by general practitioners?—Not quite satisfactory.

Bacteriology (County Laboratory) Any suggestions?—No.

Infant Mortality. Any suggestions?—No.

Any voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare?—No.
 Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1925—No excess
 Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants. Any action?—
 None required.

Suggestions will be welcomed regarding—

- (a) Maternity and Infant Welfare Schemes.
- (b) Ante-natal Schemes.

Vital Statistics—

No. of Still Births during 1925—No information.

Deaths during 1925—(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the District without any correction—
 Males 42, Females 39.

(2) No. of uncertified deaths (included above)—*nil*.

Mortuaries. What accommodation—

- (a) For accidents—*nil*.
- (b) For infectious cases other than at hospital—*nil*.
- (c) For other purposes—*nil*.

Any suggestions made by M.O.H.—No.

Sanitary Staff—

Name of Sanitary Inspector—P. C. Higgins

Annual Salary as Inspector—£240.

Housing Inspector—£20.

Any Assistants—No.

Does M.O.H. receive copies of memos. and circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?—Yes.

Clinics. Any suggestions?—No.

District Nursing Association—District Nurse wanted.

Housing—

See Table D—but please state No. of Certificates given under Increase of Rent (Restriction) Act, 1920, Sec. 2 (2)—No applications.

Supplementary Remarks as to Sanitary requirements of District, suggestions of M.O.H., and extended notes on any of the foregoing entries.

- (1) Necessity for carrying out of scheme for drainage of Colton.
- (2) Some provision for Slaughter-houses and Mortuary.
- (3) District Nurse for Oulton-cum-Woodlesford.

TABLE D, 1925.

.....

Summary of Housing Work during 1925.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1924.

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation—1.

Houses with minor defects—27.

Houses totally unfit—1.

Houses inspected for “Housing defects” in 1925 under Acts and Regulations.

Total inspected and recorded—33.

Houses found satisfactory on inspection—14

Houses needing further action—19.

Houses not reasonably fit.

Houses found with defects—19.

Action under Public Health Acts.

Houses with defects—19.

Unfit Houses—

Houses in respect of which closing orders were made.

Houses made fit and closing order determined by Council—1.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1925.

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation—19.

Houses with minor defects—27.

Houses totally unfit—1.

Other action in regard to Housing—

Total number of houses in district—1,884. Number of working-class houses—Cannot be differentiated. General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. 1., 1919—Satisfactory.

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H., under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890, or Sec. 19, 1925 Act?—Pinfold Lane Corner, Halton. Result of action—Negotiations in progress.

Unhealthy Areas—Any representations under part I. or II. of the 1890 Act or part II. of 1925 Act?—*nil*.

Re-construction Schemes. — Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act or part II. of the 1925 Act?—*nil*.

Conversion of Houses—Any houses acquired for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act or of closed houses under Section 4, 1925 Act?—*nil*.

Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Local Government Electors, under Section 31 of 1890 Act, as amended by the 1923 Act or Section 10, 1925?—No. Any complaints by Parish Councils under Section 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894?—No.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923?—No.

Any scarcity of houses? If so, where?—Yes, generally.

Any overcrowding in houses, and where?—Yes, throughout the district.

Any special activity in house building, and where?—Council Scheme, Oulton-cum-Woodlesford; private enterprise, Templenewsam.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Section 17 (7) 1909 Act, or under Section 18, 1925 Act?—No.

Total number of houses built in the district under state aided and all conditions in 1925 (a) Working-class dwellings—8; (b) Other—88.

State-aided Housing Schemes—

A. Scheme under 1919 Act.

Number of houses erected in 1925 (1) By Council—nil.
(2) By Private Builders' Subsidy—*nil*.

B. Scheme under 1923 Act.

Have Council propounded a scheme under this Act?—Yes.
Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval?—Yes. Has it been approved?—Yes

Is assistance given to private individuals? (a) By lump sum—Yes. If so, how much—£50 to £75 (b) By annual payments for 20 years of £ —No applications.

Number of houses completed by Local Authority under this scheme in 1925—8.

Number of houses completed by Private Persons under this scheme in 1925—81.

Number of houses completed by Public Utility Societies under this scheme in 1925—*nil*.

C. Scheme under 1924 Act.

Number of houses provisionally approved by Ministry—*nil*
 „ specially approved by Ministry—*nil*.
 „ completed under special conditions—*nil*
 „ purchased with approval of Ministry—*nil*.

Total Number of houses provided under all state-aided schemes in 1925—89.

Town Planning—

Have Council joined a Regional Town Planning Committee in 1925?—Yes. If so, which?—Leeds and Bradford.

All area provided for under Town Planning schemes.

Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910—P. C. Higgins, Woodlesford, nr. Leeds.

(Signed) J. BUCK, M.D., D.P.H.,

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HUNSLET RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I beg to submit my report for the year ending the 31st of December last.

Progress has been again made during the year, and improvements carried out, although there are still many in abeyance, which owing to the apathy of a great number of the Ratepayers do not materialise.

The Scavenging of the Districts, which to-day entails a considerable cost, is abused owing to the use that is made of the ashes pits and bins, by paper and other burnable matter, which if dealt with by each Householder, would be a small matter, but when it becomes a local matter, entails a great amount of expense.

Again when it is deposited on the tips and land, the paper is blown about, and becomes a general eye sore, if men are not kept on the site destroying the paper as it is delivered, necessitating unwarranted expense.

The great expense incurred in dealing with the fire for the latter part of last year at Woodlesford, would have been minimised had the precaution been taken of destroying this material instead of depositing it in the bins and pits.

Complaints are still received from owners, on receipt of notices, of the manner in which appliances in connection with the W.C.s and sink pipes are treated by the tenants.

The insertion of traps in connection with sink pipes is compulsory, and installed in the interests of the occupier's health, and when blockages occur, should not be burst by using pokers and other sharp appliances.

The following figures give the amount of the work carried out during the year:—

CORRESPONDENCE :

Number of letters written	...	...	...	...	228
„ Notices issued	...	...	...	...	76
„ Registered Notices issued	...	...	...	...	12
„ Notices abated	...	...	...	...	73
„ unabated Notices on Books	...	...	...	...	35

DETAILS OF NUISANCES :—

Defective W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	23
„ or Stopped Drains	.....	...	...	...	...	17
„ Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ Roofs and Spouts	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ Sinks and Sink Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ Privies and Ashes Pits	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defects in construction of Dwelling-Houses	...	...	...	...	...	19

The Housing problem throughout the country is acute still, and although the Council have completed in all 212 houses in their area, no great improvement appears to have been derived.

The problem in the Culton-with-Woodlesford area is still very acute, and many serious overcrowding cases are known, but there are still many houses which are housing two, and in a few cases three families, which not being built for that purpose, cannot be termed to be satisfactory conditions.

This area is finding accommodation in Lodgings, and otherwise for workmen and their families who are at work in adjoining districts, owing to the accommodation in these areas being so limited.

STATISTICS :—

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	805
„ House-to-House (re old notices)...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Sewers and Drains flushed	...	...	...	...	...	53
„ „ stopped	...	...	...	...	...	59
Stopped W.C.'s cleared	...	...	...	...	...	38
Stopped Chambers cleared	...	...	...	...	...	71
Storm Gullies in enclosed Yards, and Streets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	115

The flushing of the sewers during the year has been again restrained owing to the water supply being interfered with on the higher levels, and further to minimise this, flushing has been carried out in the very early hours before the demand for water in the houses has taken place.

SCAVENGING.

	Cleansings	Loads	To Tip	To Land
Oulton-with-Woodlesford...	35,142	3,236	3,101	195
Last year	34,437	3,263	2,804	459
Templenewsam	33,967	2007	1,525	482
Last year	31,273	1,945	1,546	399

The whole of the area of Oulton-with-Woodlesford with bins, has been cleansed twice weekly throughout the year, and the extra amount in the loads removed, as shewn above, is accounted for by the number of residents who have a regular issue as employees of the colliery, of an inferior quality of coal.

The Council's installation of its own horse and cart for Templenewsam during the year has proved itself a great improvement.

Even with the building which is taking place, the work was kept in hand by an additional horse and cart for 15 days, as against an additional one for last year for the same period of 26 days.

The cleansing of cesspools, which during the previous year, entailed a great expense without satisfaction, has during the year been minimised, sewers having been laid, and a small temporary works installed at both Whitkirk Lane End, and Grove Road, Halton, and these have been and are, working very satisfactorily.

The only cesspools remaining are those of many years standing, and these are regularly cleansed.

HOUSES in the DISTRICT OCCUPIED or being OCCUPIED.

	Through	Non-Through	Back-to-Back	Totals
Oulton-with-Woodlesford ...	596	168	100	864
Templenewsam ...	895	98	27	1020
Total ...	1491	266	127	1884

During the year, the Council have completed eight houses on their second scheme in the Oulton-with-Woodlesford area, and private enterprise has erected 88 houses, 7 in the Oulton area and 81 in the Templenewsam area.

Eighty of these are semi-detached houses, 16 bungalows, of which 81 have ranked for subsidy.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION in the District.

	Privy Ashes Pits	Ashes Bins	Water Closets	Privies	Earth Closets	Dry Pits
Oulton-with-Woodlesford ...	152	324	563	244	...	125
Templenewsam ...	132	635	880	192	34	143
Total ...	284	959	1443	436	34	268

As a comparison I append the figures relative to the above for the year 1915.

Privy Ashpits	Ashes Bins	Water Closets	Privies	Earth Closets
575	414	918	628	18

The additional earth closets are accounted for by the provision of latrine accommodation in connection with a new colliery.

Included in the above are the Latrines of the Oulton-with-Woodlesford and Halton Schools, and the privies and earth closets of the Colton Schools.

The latrines are flushed with an automatic flushing cistern. The above figures also include the range of latrines fitted at Templenewsam Mansion for the convenience of the visitors.

Several requests have been made for the disinfecting of Houses after a change of Tenancy, and these along with any house from which an infected person has removed, or been taken to Hospital have been thoroughly disinfected.

Thirteen filthy houses have been disinfected during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are no licensed Slaughter Houses in the area, the meat retailed, having been slaughtered outside the district, either at Rothwell in connection with the arrangement with the Rothwell butchers, or at the Wholesale Abattoir at Leeds.

One new shop has been opened and one shop has closed down.

The coming into force of the Rural District Council's (Slaughter House) Order, 1924, and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, on the 1st of April, has exposed that the slaughter of many of these animals, pigs generally retailed out by the owners for human food, are not slaughtered and dried under the best conditions.

The coming into force of these regulations are welcomed, as due advice is given as to the slaughter, and unsatisfactory conditions are observed and the owner advised as to the defects. Seventy-eight carcasses have been examined under these regulations, and the wide area of the district has required a great amount of time, but no exception could be taken to the quality of the meat.

A great improvement in the working of these regulations would be the provision of a slaughter house in each area, and I feel that little exception would be taken, by those desirous of slaughtering, as the removal of the conditions from the home, and improved accommodation would be welcomed.

GREEN GROCERY TRADE.

The conditions of this trade do not vary, and the quality of the goods for sale appears good.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are nine fried fish shops in the area, and the quality of the food sold appears to be good.

One of the old shops has been demolished, and the tenant has procured much better accommodation, and has had the shop re-fit with up-to-date appliances.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

No statutory observations have been necessary during the year, and but for occasional lapses by the stokers, little excessive smoke is noticeable.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Ninety-six new houses have been erected in the area, during the year, eighty-one in Templenewsam and fifteen in Oulton-with-Woodlesford. Of these, 8 semi-detached have been completed by the Council along with seven others by private enterprise, while in Templenewsam, 65 semi-detached and 16 bungalows have been erected by private enterprise.

WATER SUPPLY.

A plentiful supply of water has been available during the year with the exception of the higher levels of both Whitkirk and Woodlesford.

The former complaint appears to be well on the way towards a much more satisfactory settlement, the Leeds Authorities having made progress with the substituting of a new main of larger capacity.

In the Woodlesford area, a new 7 inch main, 1,180 yards in length was substituted for the old 5 inch, improving the supply in the Oulton district, but little hope can be maintained of improvement on the higher level, owing to the head of water at the reservoir being so small.

Three-hundred-and-eighty yards of new four inch main was laid during the year in connection with the Housing Scheme, at Oulton, and 690 yards of three inch main at Templenewsam.

COWSHEDS.

One additional cowshed has been registered during the year, and one license has lapsed.

The cattle appear to be of a fair quality, and no complaints have been received as to the quality of the milk.

No farm in the area has set out for the making of Grade A milk, but two retailers, who secure the product outside the area have been licensed for the sale of it.

Foot and mouth disease has again affected the Whitkirk Auction Mart, but no farm in the area has been affected during the year.

GENERAL.

There are signs of continued improvement in many ways in the area, and the increased demand for disinfectants, proves that the ratepayers have to some extent realised that its use is beneficial to the home.

In conclusion I beg to tender my thanks and appreciation to the Council for their consideration and kindness, and to the Medical Officer and Officials for their support in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

P. C. HIGGINS, *Inspector.*



